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ANNUAL REPORT

— OF —

SELECTMEN,

— AND —

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

— OF —

WALPOLE, N. H.,

WITH THE

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT,

INCLUDING ALSO REPORT OF

TOWN LIBRARY.—1868-9.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.:
PRINTED AT THE TIMES JOB OFFICE.
1869.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY



FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Selectmen of Walpole, pursuant to a vote of the Town at the last Annual Meeting, submit the following report for the year ending Feb. 27, 1869.

RECEIPTS.

Cash in Treasury March 9th, 1868,	\$1,144 41
Taxes uncollected " "	3,730 95
Cash received on County pauper claims,	992 88
Taxes committed to Collector,	17,248 34
" " " District No. 1,	723 96
" " " " 6,	52 35
" " " Precinct,	175 98
Loans for temporary use of Town,	5,025 00
Cash received on bank stock,	918 98
" " railroad tax from State,	893 55
" " United States bounties,	440 00
" " literary fund,	90 90
" " Savings bank,	89 74
" " for lot in cemetery,	10 00
" " on pauper expenses,	83 03
" " highway taxes not worked, 1866-7,	20 52
	\$31,640 59

DISBURSEMENTS.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1867-8.

Services of Selectmen,	\$399 71
" Collector,	50 00
" Treasurer,	16 90
" Town Clerk,	50 50
" Constable,	29 27
" S. School Committee,	130 00
" Librarian,	30 00—\$705 88
Amount appropriated for Town Library,	100 00

SUPPORT OF POOR.

No. of County paupers assisted during the year,	30
No. of Town paupers assisted during the year,	22
No. of County paupers at present time,	12
“ Town “ “ “	10

AMOUNT PAID FOR POOR.

County paupers,	\$1,551 01
Town paupers,	1,141 60—\$2,692 61

HIGHWAYS.

Roads and bridges,	904 76
Damages paid,	19 00—\$924 76

LAW SUITS.

Paid Ella A. Gates,	\$5,336 30
“ Ring & Prescott,	213 91
“ Services of Agent,	68 00
“ Council and witnessess,	547 52—\$6,165 73
	<hr/> \$10,588 98

Paid State Tax,	\$6,143 75
“ County Tax,	2,987 24
“ School “ district No. 1,	723 96
“ “ “ “ 6,	52 35
“ Precinct,	175 98—\$10,083 28

Amount paid for schools,	2,945 31
“ dog tax for schools,	356 00—\$3,301 31
Abatement of taxes 1866-7-8	254 01
Interest on Town debt,	1,570 19
Building tomb,	700 00
Labor and care at cemetery,	75 56
Expenses on pauper business,	20 00
Orders for sheep killed by dogs,	102 50

Rent on Library Room,	20 00
Sundry small orders,	77 89
Printing, stationery, postage and revenue stamps,	39 50
Balance of taxes in Frederick Watkins' hands,	2,183 23
" " unaccounted for in R. L. Ball's hands,	200 00
" in Treasury,	2,106 43
Floating orders,	317 71
	<hr/>
	\$31,640 59

SCHOOL MONEY FOR 1868.

Amount raised by tax,	\$3,000 00
Amount of dog money in Treasury,	356 00
Amount of school money raised in District No. 1,	723 96

AMOUNT FOR EACH DISTRICT.

High School,			\$723 96
Dist. No. 1,	No. of scholars, 130,		604 31
" " 2,	" " 66,		356 24
" " 3,	" " 39,		251 60
" " 4,	" " 44,		270 97
" " 5,	" " 11,		143 06
" " 6,	" " 15,		158 87
" " 7,	" " 10,		139 19
" " 8,	" " 14,		154 69
" " 9,	" " 35,		236 09
" " 10,	" " 26,		201 20
" " 11,	" " 17,		166 32
" " 12,	" " 34,		232 30
" " 13,	" " 33,		228 33
" " 14,	" " 29,		212 83
	—		<hr/>
Whole number of scholars,	503		\$4,079 96
Amount appropriated to each district,	\$75 00		
" of dog money to each district,	25 43		
" drawn by each scholar,	3 87 $\frac{9}{10}$		

TOWN DEBT.

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Amount of Notes Feb. 27, 1869,	\$35,776 50
“ Interest unpaid, Feb. 27, 1869,	1,429 09
Amount of Debt, Principal and Interest,	\$37,205 59

ASSETS.

Amount in Treasurer's hands,	\$2,106 43
“ Collectors “	2,183 23
“ estimated due from County,	350
“ on taxes unaccounted for by R. L. Ball, 200	
	\$4,839 66

UNPAID BILLS.

Estimated Town officers Bills,	\$625
“ Other unpaid “	450
Floating orders,	145 64
	1220 64
Leaving a balance after paying all bills,	\$3,619 02

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 1869 and 70.

Support of Poor,	\$1,500
Interest on Debt,	2,200
Schools,	3,000
Highways and other current expenses	1,500
County Tax,	2,355 92
State “	4860
	\$15,415 92

The committee appointed to settle with the Selectmen, have examined their accounts, and find them well vouched and correctly cast.

OLIVER MARTIN, }
GEO. ALDRICH } Committee.

REPORT.

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Superintending School Committee of Walpole, in compliance with the law submit the following report of the condition of the Schools for the year ending March 1869.

Before offering the special reports of the schools, the committee would state that the Town raised for the use of its schools, the sum of five hundred dollars additional to the amount raised last year, which, including the amount raised by special tax in District No. 1, makes an aggregate of thirty-five hundred dollars. This sum is about fifteen hundred dollars more than the law requires. The amount afforded to each scholar, is seven dollars and ninety-five cents, it being nearly treble the average to each scholar in the State. As a consequence of this increased amount of money, the prudential committees have been able to pay a more liberal remuneration for the services of teachers, and there have been more weeks of schooling. About one-half of the districts have been enabled to have a Fall term. More male teachers have been employed in the winter schools than female. This has not happened before for many years.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

DISTRICT NO. 2.—The school room in this district has this year been made more commodious.

There have been three terms of school. The Summer school was taught by Miss ABBIE R. PERHAM. There were forty scholars at the commencement and only fourteen on examination day. The register shows a great number of absent marks throughout the term, and two hundred and fifty-one tardy marks. It is an

unpleasant duty to record a retrograde movement in this school, which had so long been managed by competent teachers. None but an experienced teacher and a known disciplinarian, should undertake the management of this school. Such an one was found in Mrs. R. M. STAPLES, who took charge of the Fall school. Under her management, the school was restored to its former standard. She labored diligently in the discharge of her duties and possessed that force of character, necessary for success.

The Winter term was likewise a prosperous one. It was taught by Mr. ALBERT F. NIMS, who proved himself master of the situation. The scholars appeared accurately and thoroughly drilled. Feeling the want of mural maps, the teacher furnished an equivalent to the school, drawing them with his own hand, thereby creating a lively interest in the minds of his pupils. The attendance was good, as was also the punctuality.

No. 3.—The Summer school was faithfully taught by Miss CHARLOTTE B. ELLIS of Surry, who had taught some thirty terms previously, and once before in this district. The discipline of the school was excellent, and good progress was made in all the branches taught. It is feared the services of this teacher were not justly appreciated in this district.

The Winter school was under the instruction of J. G. H. PORTER of Langdon, who on examination was found to be an excellent scholar, modest, and of an age that would indicate success. At the commencement of the school, there was an unusually large number of scholars between twelve and twenty years of age, who, it was hoped, might profit much under the instruction of a teacher so well qualified; but, at the close of the term of fourteen weeks, a cloud of disappointment came over us. The school room on the day of examination presented the appearance of having been under a military siege, the bombardment being so severe, that it was only a question of time when the house would be razed. The teacher, deeming discretion the better part of valor, and to avoid broken bones and the effusion of blood, concluded to surrender to the insurgents, he being allowed to remain and carry off the spoils. On examining the classes, there was little interest and less animation manifested, except on the part of a few of the pupils. Mr. Porter labored hard, and

undoubtedly had a desire to make the school a good one ; but lacked in that essential element to the success of a school,—the faculty to govern.

The committee by way of extenuation, would say they have been creditably informed that much of the damage done to the school room, was in the night time, when the teacher was not present.

No. 4.—Miss EMILY M. GREENE taught the school fifteen weeks, between May 20th and Oct. 2d. Miss Greene is a progressive teacher, with an experience of nearly three years, during which time she has not “slept on her oars.” As is the case with all good teachers, her classes appeared well at our first visit, and gave evidence of improvement at the close of the school. She taught during the winter in District No. 12, and we would refer prudential committees in search of a good teacher to our report on that school.

The term commencing Nov. 30, 1868, and ending Feb. 17, 1869, was kept by Mr. E. A. Phelps, a student of Dartmouth College, who had had eight months previous experience as a teacher.

Mr. Phelps was industrious and conscientious, always at his post, always ready to assist, patient and untiring. We were fearful at the beginning of the term lest he would fail for want of energy, but the scholars at its close showed commendable progress. The school in this District, has long been ranked as one of our best schools. The parents have always manifested a strong interest in the welfare of the school, and during the past winter a complete set of Cornell’s Mural Maps has been purchased by private beneficence, which will serve to adorn the walls of the school room and assist the youthful mind in the study of geography.

No. 5.—There was no Summer term. In the Fall, Miss STELLA M. SLADER of Langdon, had charge of the school twelve weeks. This was not an enviable field for a lady of the superior attainments and cultivated tastes of Miss Slader. But with enthusiastic zeal, untiring industry and a conscientious regard for duty, she broke up the fallow ground, planted with assiduous care, and in the end reaped a bountiful harvest. All were well taught.—At the close one pupil gave evidence of superior scholarship for a district school.

The Winter school was taught by CHAS. E. SARGENT, a young man well qualified, as far as scholarly attainments are concerned. About one half of the pupils were removed at the middle of the term. By some fault in memorandum as to the time the school was to close, the committee failed to visit it ; but by indirect information it is inferred the school was a fair one.

No. 6.—This school was successfully taught three terms, twenty-eight weeks in the aggregate, by Miss ROSELLA E. FAY. They would feel that they were not doing their duty, if they did not speak in terms highly commendatory of her success. The school was small and the pupils young, but the progress and the standard attained might be envied by pupils much older. The modest and lady-like bearing of the teacher, secured the love of the pupils, and won the admiration of the committee.

No. 7.—Between May 4th and June 26th, this school was under the instruction of Miss HATTIE R. CARPENTER, who never taught before. There was a Fall term of which we have received no register.

Seven scholars of an average age of less than seven years, constituted the school. Notwithstanding the school was small, offering only a limited field for executive ability, Miss Carpenter's zeal did not wane and she gave promise of success in larger schools, where her talent would be put to a severer test. The festoons of forest leaves and garlands of wild flowers that adorned the school-room on examination day, were equally creditable to the teacher who suggested, and the scholars that made them.

The Winter term was kept by Mr. SAMUEL E. HUBBARD, who was also a novice in the art of teaching, and he did well. In the school register for that term under the item of "Remarks by the teacher," we noticed some bad spelling.

No. 8.—This District was fortunate in securing the services of Miss MAGGIE FAWCETT of Surry, whose cultivated mind, self reliance, and dignity of character, were a sufficient guarantee that she would keep a good school. The teacher was not confined to the text-book in recitation, and explained the principles of arithmetic in no superficial manner. A record of perfect and imperfect recitations was kept, which was creditable on inspection.—This school generally excels in punctuality.

Miss HELEN A. SHELDON of Westminster, in the Fall, did not

fall below her predecessor in discipline and good teaching. Her school gave satisfaction to the committee.

There was no Winter term.

No. 9.—The Summer term was taught by Miss MARY L. ALDRICH, ten weeks. The teacher was quite young and inexperienced in school-teaching. Good order was maintained throughout the term, and at the close a commendable degree of progress was made in most of the studies pursued. More than usual progress was made in reading and penmanship. The writing-books exhibited a degree of neatness and evidence of industry which was found in no other school in town.

Miss FANNIE McALLISTER was employed for the Fall term of eight weeks. Miss McAllister was educated at the West, and has had some experience in teaching there; but our text-books and manner of conducting schools in New-England are not the same, and consequently the short time she had to initiate the pupils in her mode of teaching was not sufficient to develop her plans successfully. At the close of the school there appeared to be a good state of feeling existing between teacher and pupils, still the progress made in the different branches did not warrant commendation. Miss McAllister undoubtedly meant well, and, by acquiring more knowledge of our customs and text-books, she might prove successful.

The Winter term was kept by Mr. E. F. HOUGHTON. The school was visited only at its commencement. The committee did not visit the school at its close because of some misunderstanding as to the time. So far as they can learn, Mr. Houghton did not distinguish himself as a teacher.

No. 10.—This school was under the instruction of Miss KATIE J. JOSLIN during the Summer term. Miss Joslin taught two terms last year in District No. 7, "a young teacher with seven young scholars," with good success. The care of this school was a greater trial. She won the esteem of the scholars, who, by diligence and good behavior, made her burden light.

The Fall and Winter terms were taught by Miss JOSEPHINE H. DICKEY, whose reputation as a good teacher is wide-spread in this town, and we bespeak for her, success wherever she may go. This is one of our good schools. The scholars are obedient, and the parents sustain the teacher. The practice in some districts is to hire a teacher, then leave her to her task to grope along with-

out any support from Prudential Committee or parents, to be criticised by listeners to hearsay reports, and by persons that never visit a school-room. Such is not the practise here and we are happy to say it. We have vainly endeavored to persuade this district to purchase a set of mural maps. We trust it will build a new school-house, then we shall hope to see its walls adorned with outline maps and other diagrams,—fully furnished with every appurtenance for improvement.

No. 11.—The Summer school was instructed by Miss LEACH of Westmoreland. There were twelve bright pupils. One, fourteen years of age, pursued algebra, physiology, and history.—There was no whispering during the eight weeks which composed this term. Several visitors were present from the district at the examination, for which occasion the house was tastefully trimmed. Declamation formed a part of the exercises.

The Winter term, being a long one, is in session as this report goes to press, therefore the tabular statement of the school remains incomplete. Several of the pupils have enjoyed the advantages of the High School one or more terms. Miss MARY P. JEFTS, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, is the teacher in charge. She brought to her work a large share of sound sense, and a hearty enthusiasm in the business in which she is engaged. The commsttee anticipate much pleasure when the final examination of this school shall take place, and hope this town may be the field of Miss J's labor while she continues her present occupation.

No. 12.—The Summer school was taught by Miss JULIETTE CHAPPELL. Miss C. has taught previously in town. She sustained her former good reputation. The school appeared orderly at the close, and the scholars made fair progress in their studies, taking into consideration the short time they were under instruction.

The Fall school of eight weeks was under the instruction of Miss CARRIE. O. MASON, a teacher of long experience. There was much at the examination to commend and nothing to censure.

The District was fortunate in securing the services of Miss EMILY M. GREENE for the Winter term. She performed her duties meritoriously and to the satisfaction of the committee. Miss

Greene is one of those teachers of whom there ought to be more. She is not afraid of work in the school-room, and, what is better, knows how to work profitably. Her method of teaching is well calculated, not only to interest, but to develop the mental faculties of children, as far as consistent with their age and health.—More progress was made during this term than at any other since our acquaintance with the school. The parents ought to be well satisfied.

No. 13.—This school during the Summer term was taught by Miss HATTIE O. MASON, who is always loved by her scholars and highly esteemed by their parents. We were sorry to see at the commencement so little animation and so much listlessness. At the close there were a number of parents present, an evidence that they feel an interest in the school. Fair progress was made. The register shows no tardy marks, and that eight of the seventeen pupils were not absent.

The Winter term begun under the instruction of Mr. JOHN L. HUBBARD, who, on account of bad health, as he reports to the committee, surrendered his charge nine days previous to the close of the school.

The Prudential Committee then hired Mr. JOHN L. HOUGHTON to complete the term, which he did most acceptably to all the district. Under the administration of Mr. Hubbard the school became completely demoralized. Mr. Houghton brought order out of chaos and conducted the school to its close with much credit to himself and all concerned.

No. 14.—Miss LOUISA M. BLANCHARD had charge of this school during the Summer term. This was her first attempt at teaching. The teacher appeared well, as also did the school.—She seemed to be laying plans for future success. The committee were called away the day the school closed, and are not able themselves to report the progress made, but were credibly informed by competent persons that the school was a good one.

The Winter school of twelve weeks was successfully taught by Miss JULIETTE CHAPPELL, who had charge of the Summer school in District No. 12. The school was small and the pupils young, which lessens the interest the teacher can have or create. Notwithstanding, Miss Chappell was untiring in her efforts, and discharged her duties commendably.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In taking a survey of the schools during the past year, the committee are able to state that the standard has been kept up to the point attained in any previous year, and in many instances, the degree of excellence has been much higher than at any other time. The committee had but one partial failure to record in the Summer school, which can be traced in a great measure to the parents in keeping their children at home for trifling causes.—No school can be successful when the pupils attend irregularly, and, so long as parents are negligent of their duty to keep their children in school after they commence going, and of taking measures to have them at the school-room in season, just so long will our schools be unsuccessful and our money wasted.

The Fall schools were good with one exception.

The Winter schools in a majority of cases were of a superior order. In some, the committee are not able to state what might have been the result had not sickness prevented many from attending; but in one school, where the register indicated good attendance, the school was not what the committee could have wished.

In the examination of teachers care has been taken not to approbate any one who was not found passably well qualified. It has been an unpleasant duty to discard a number of well-meaning candidates, who were aspiring to a position they were not qualified to fill, and who, if permitted to assume the responsibilities they seek, would not only bring detriment to the district, but unhappiness to themselves.

There is wanting in this State a Normal School, where it is made a speciality to instruct teachers for their responsible calling, where there is a uniformity of ideas inculcated, in the most improved methods of teaching and governing schools.

Many of our teachers, especially the beginners, go into our schools without any definite idea of what course to pursue, and commence experimenting and continue so to do through an entire term, and, at the end, find they have accomplished nothing; whereas, a person having been taught how to teach, like a person who has learned a trade, knowing what he wants to do, goes directly about it and accomplishes something.

In making out the special reports the committee have endeav-

ored to do their duty impartially, being, as is hoped, divested of all motives beyond the success of the schools. They have endeavored to use the broad mantle of charity for those who have not come up to their standard of excellence, and even some of the more conspicuous errors they would fain carry to the credit side of the account, knowing that in many instances the best directed efforts are of no avail, the circumstances of failure being beyond the control, and beyond the reach of the teacher. But where the teacher has a fair field in which to operate, and where no baneful influences exist, shall neglect duties which should be performed, or do things prejudicial to the interests of the school, or, with good intent fail in aptness to teach, it is the duty of the committee to speak of such matters in an unambiguous manner, that the district may govern themselves accordingly thereafter. On the other hand, when a teacher shows good qualifications, industry, and aptness in teaching, it is their duty, not only to the district where employed, but to the teacher, that they should know that such teacher merits the approbation of the committee.

Parents think sometimes they have had good schools without even paying them a visit, and are surprised to find the committee's report not consonant with their own judgment, and sometimes the reverse is the case. Committees who are constantly visiting schools and comparing them, ought to be able to judge as correctly of a school as those who never step a foot into the school-room.

The committee would respectfully call the attention of those interested, to the condition of their school-houses. It is said cleanliness is next to godliness, and so a cultivated taste is next to virtue and purity. Human nature is so constituted that the associations surrounding the youthful mind, are calculated either to elevate or debase it. These associations may be a home, where piety, virtue and a cultivated taste reign prominent, or where profanity, vice and debauchery obtain. They may be where liberality has shown an unsparing hand in the decorations of home, churches, and convenient school-houses, where children are to spend the greater part of their youth, or they may be in a miserable, dilapidated school-house, dingy, inconvenient and uncomfortable, where one would not risk a valuable horse through a cold, wintry night without extra blankets. These associations tell wonderfully on the youthful mind for weal or woe. But few worse

places are known where the seeds of ill health and premature death are engendered, than one of those old, cold, smoky school-rooms. Were it not in the power of youth to quickly recuperate, sickness and death would be the rule and not the exception. The out-buildings are in many instances too near the school-room, as if the vitiated air of the room was not sufficient to engender headache, prostration and fevers. Those houses that reflect no credit on the town or district are in districts Nos. 9, 10, 12 and 3. The condition of many others might be bettered.

The committee would also call the attention of parents in the several districts to the purchase of Geographical Mural maps, which are considered by the committee and teachers generally of the utmost importance in every school-room. They have been procured in two districts through the liberality of their citizens. They cost but a trifle and the advantage to a class in geography is a hundred-fold.

The committee are opposed to frequent changes in text-books, and feel it their duty to insist on uniformity. After due consideration and numerous petitions from various quarters of the town, they deemed it expedient to exchange Adams's for Greenleaf's Arithmetic, and have so ordered.

The "Walpole Common School Association," organized one year ago, held its first meeting during the current year early in the season, and was first addressed by Rev. L. Dickerman, at the Town Hall. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Hon. Amos Hadley, learning of this effort to increase the educational interests of the town, offered to spend a day among our schools and address the Association in the evening. Accordingly the second meeting was addressed by him. Subject—"Horace Mann; his Life and Example."

Subsequently there were meetings of this body at the High school-room, and in districts Nos. 11, 10, 4, 9, and 3. Essays were presented at these several meetings, by Miss Eleanora M. Learned, Miss Josephine H. Dickey, Mr. E. F. Houghton, Mr. W. W. Guild, and Mr. Edwin Guild.

Questions of importance were discussed by the teacher in each district where the association was held, and afterwards volunteer speakers engaged in the debate. It is hoped that the influence of this association may continue, and furnish additional proof that, "this town is distinguished for its excellent schools and its val-

uable efforts to promote the interests of education." A County Association has long existed in our county and now holds five sessions yearly. A similar arrangement has recently been extended throughout the State by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and is the source of much educational good. The object of these associations is "to awaken and guide public sentiment in relation to practical interests of education," by associated effort. The State Superintendent strongly urges the formation of town educational associations as auxiliary organizations, and recommends that they be represented by delegation in the meetings of county associations. The associations of this county have been confined wholly to its southern portion because they have not been solicited in this section. It is hoped that we may soon come more immediately within the circle of their influence and participate in the advantages which they afford.

In conclusion the committee would say, that the town in its united action has taken the initial step towards the elevation of our common schools, in the liberal appropriations made the past year.

It has raised fourteen hundred and seventy-five dollars more than the law requires, which, with the tax on dogs, and what the law requires, is a sufficient sum for school purposes, if properly expended. This is one step in the right direction and a very important one. But there is something more to be done and some things to be left undone, if success is to crown liberal effort. In the first place districts must emulate the action of the town in raising money to build, repair and furnish their school houses and make them comfortable, pleasant, healthful and inviting. Once a year each district is required to select some one for Prudential Committee. Let every voter in the district turn out who has an interest, and select some responsible person for that office,—a man who has intelligence enough to do his duty,—some one who has children to send and feels an interest in the prosperity of the schools;—not some one who has a niece, nephew or cousin, who may desire to teach the school against the wishes of the parents, but some person who is guided by other motives than selfishness. When fairly chosen and a teacher procured, let no *neighborhood quarrels* have anything to do with the teacher. Cases are not unfrequent where the success of schools has been seriously impaired by the teacher innocently becoming the bone

of contention between the angry parties. Let each pupil be well furnished with books. Keep your children in school during the entire term, though it cost an effort, and see that they are there in season. Visit the school-room often, and, if pleased, let the school and teacher know it;—if not, do not tell your neighbors, or children, of your displeasure; but inform the proper committee of the condition of the school, and they, if possible, will remedy any evil. Never countenance rebellion in school. Never speak disrespectfully of the teacher in the presence of your children or in public places. As soon as possible make the acquaintance of the teacher and invite him to your house. This will give your children to understand that you respect him, which will do much for their good behavior. Follow the few suggestions above made, and in the large majority of cases the school will be a success. As we all know what the common school has done and is doing for this country, the influence of which is felt all over the globe, let us not throw any stumbling blocks in the way; but unitedly and wisely strive to do all in our power to promote the interest and raise the standard of the common school.

A. P. RICHARDSON,	} Town Superintending
GEORGE ALDRICH,	
GEORGE A. BLAKE,	

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE TOWN LIBRARY, 1868.

It has been suggested, that it would be well to append to the Report of the School Committee, a short statement of the present condition of the Town Library, which is respectfully submitted to the consideration of the Town.

The Library is at present, under the care of Miss Jennie M. Ball, who has had charge of it for the past two years as Librarian, and whose careful attention to her duties has contributed much to its usefulness. The number of volumes added since January 1, 1868, is 77, of which 64 were purchased with money appropriated by the Town, and 13 were presented by friends. The whole number of volumes now in the Library, is 1262.

We have expended the entire amount (\$100.00) appropriated at the last annual town meeting. We have thought it best to purchase several rather expensive works, such as "Chambers' Encyclopaedia of English Literature," thus diminishing the gross number of volumes added, but, we believe, increasing the value of the Library, more than by the addition of a larger number of inferior books. We have used great care in the selection of books, while we have endeavored to purchase nothing which would repel the reader by its dullness, yet we have felt that we had no right to use the money of the town for books of temporary interest merely, which would not make a permanent addition to the value of the Library.

The number of volumes taken out from January 1868, to January 1869, was 2548, or nearly two and a half times the number of volumes in the Library. Comparing this with the circulation of books in the Public Library of the city of Boston, we find, from the Report of the Trustees, that the number of volumes taken out during the same period, was less than one and a quarter times the number in that Library. So that the circulation of our books is nearly double, in proportion, that of one of the most popular libraries in the United States. This fact alone is sufficient to show that our Library is thoroughly appreciated, and is doing a good work in the town. In spite of this large circulation, not a single volume has been lost during the year. The fines collected, have been sufficient to rebind all the books that have required it, and to meet the other incidental expenses.

The thanks of the Town are due to those friends who have presented books to the Library, and especially to the Club for Book a valuable gift of 75 volumes about two years since. It is hoped that the proprietors of the Agricultural Library, may before long be induced to place their books upon our shelves, thus giving a large circle of readers, the benefit of an excellent collection, which is now used by a comparatively small number.

Here we might close our Report : but we are aware that there is a feeling in the minds of some, that, even if we admit the usefulness of the Library, it is not desirable to make further appropriations for its benefit, especially while taxes are at their present high rate. We should be disposed to admit this, if we did not think it important that the Library should be made to

keep pace in some degree with the progress of the day. A trifling annual appropriation will enable future committees to purchase the best of the new publications, as they appear. The addition to the tax of each individual will be so small as scarcely to be felt, and without such appropriations, the Library will surely relapse into the state of neglect, from which it was rescued with difficulty three or four years since. Appropriations were entirely suspended during the war, so that the sum of two hundred dollars only, has been expended for books since 1860. It must be evident to all, that many books have appeared during this interval, which are worthy of a place on our shelves, and that, if appropriations are wholly suspended, our Library will soon fall behind the times.

THOMAS B. PECK,

JOSIAH G. BELLOWES,

GEORGE A. BLAKE,

} Committee on the Town
Library.

WALPOLE, March 1, 1869.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES.

Appropriated by the Town, March, 1868,	\$100 00
Fines collected during 1868,	7 98
	<hr/>
	\$107 98
Paid express on books,	\$1 10
“ stationery,	1 15
“ re-binding 11 volumes,	4 25
“ 46 vols. new books, June 1, 1868,	75 00
“ 18 vols. new books, Feb. 20, 1869,	25 48
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Balance on hand March 1st, 1869,	\$1 00

ROLL OF HONOR.

PUPILS NOT ABSENT OR TARDY DURING A TERM.

DISTRICTS.

High Schl.	{ Waldo Burt, Henry Booth, Arthur Holmes, Mary Aldrich, Emma Holmes, Robert Frost, Frank Smith, Mary Rust, Ella Rust.
Intermediate.	{ George Aldrich, Augustus Felch,* Herbert Grant, Charles Holland, Charles Leonard, Edward Wier, Joe Bunting, Willie Murray, George Priest, Fred Wier, Hattie Putnam,† Abbie Chappell,* Mary Griffin, Kate Drislain, Mary Kendrick, Belle Chappel, Abbie Holton, Mary Maynard, Carrie Royce.
Primary.	{ Irving Felch, Gordon Dorr, Charles Fuller, Dudley Hale, Nattie Holland,* Henry Holland,* Walter Hubbard, Arthur Priest, Willie Hooper, Mary Holland, Mary Farnsworth, Julia Buckley, Maggie Hasty, Carrie Fuller, Nora Ball.
Dis't. No. 2.	{ Nellie Ryan.
Dis't. No. 4.	{ Lillie Webster, Anna Watkins, Retta M. Hall, Mary E. Griggs, Willie H. Lawrence, Joseph Duran, Wm. A. Jennings, Elmer W. Raymond, Lucius H. Nource, Minnie E. Graves, Flora S. Guild, Hattie L. Graves.
No. 5.	{ Willie G. Leonard.*
No. 6.	{ Alice E. Bunker,* Sarah J. Roy,* Susie G. Roy, Edward A. Knowlton,* Warren D. Knowlton,† Ada M. Fisher, C. E. Knowlton, J. E. Bunker.
No. 7.	{ Geo. W. Gassett.
No. 8.	{ Emma E. Scovill, Josie L. Stevens,* Ella A. Scovill.
No. 9.	{ Lizzie Weber,* Willis Colburn, Delaney R. Drew, Lillie Lebourveau.
No. 10.	{ Hattie J. Mason,* Alice M. Smith,* Velma E. Foster,* Adine P. Foster,† Herbert W. Smith, Westly C. Foster,* Alfred M. Foster, Charlie E. Seward, Herbert W. Smith, Hidee M. Foster,* Willie C. Mason, Eddie P. Foster, Arthur A. Smith, Willie C. Foster.
No. 12.	{ Henry Tole, Nellie Lane, Frank N. Fisher, Mary A. Tole, David Fisher, Willie Boothe, Freddie Fisher,* Alice Fisher, Charles E. Beckwith, George M. Witt, Della G. Witt.
No. 13.	{ Marina Wellington,* Mary A. Watkins, Lizzie W. Watkins,* Cora J. Arnold, Emma B. Hinckly, Jennie E. Ball, Hattie U. Emerson, S. A. Ball.
No. 14.	{ Daniel W. Spaulding,* Lestlie H. Houghton, Everett L. Houghton, Arthur E. Wells.

*Not absent or tardy during 2 terms. †Not absent or tardy during 3 terms.

WINTER SCHOOLS

Grades	Teachers	Students	Teachers	Residence	Prudential Comm's
High School	Mr. Edward Russell,	Walpole.	Mr. Edward Russell.	Walpole.	R. L. Ball.
Intermediate.	{ Miss Eleanora M. Learned, Mr. Edward Russell,	Walpole.	Miss Eleanora M. Learned,	Walpole.	{ J. B. Russell. Henry Allen.
Primary.	{ Miss Ella R. Ball, Miss Ella R. Perham,	Walpole.	Miss Ella R. Ball,	Walpole.	
No. 2.	{ Miss Abbie R. Perham, Mrs. R. M. Staples,	Walpole.	Miss Albert F. Nims,	Walpole.	Geo. Dennis.
No. 3.	Miss Charlotte B. Ellis,	Surry.	Mr. J. G. H. Porter,	Langdon.	Chas. A. Gates
No. 4.	Miss Emilie M. Greene,	Alstead.	Mr. E. A. Phelps,	Harvhill.	Alonzo A. Jennings.
No. 5.	Miss Stella M. Slader,	Langdon.	Mr. Chas. E. Sargent,	Walpole.	Rufus Leonard.
No. 6.	Miss Rosella E. Fay,	Walpole.	Miss Rosella L. Fay,	Walpole.	Andrew Roy.
No. 7.	{ Miss Rosella E. Fay, Miss Hattie R. Carpenter,	Surry.	Mr. Saml E. Hubbard,	Walpole.	Farnham Marsh.
No. 8.	{ Miss Hattie R. Carpenter, Miss Maggie Fawcett,	Surry.	Mr. Saml E. Hubbard,	Walpole.	W. H. Scovill.
No. 9.	{ Miss Helen A. Sheldon, Miss Mary L. Aldrich,	Westmorel'd.	Mr. E. F. Houghton,	Walpole.	Albert Colburn.
No. 10.	{ Miss Fannie McAllister, Miss Kate Joslin,	Surry.	Miss Josephine H. Dickey,	Walpole.	Edmund Smith
No. 11.	{ Miss Josephine H. Dickey, Miss Leach,	Westmorel'd.	Miss Mary P. Jeffs,	Langdon.	Eben Burr.
No. 12.	{ Miss Carrie O. Mason, Miss Juliette Chappell,	Walpole.	Miss Emilie M. Greene,	Alstead.	Jos. Fisher.
No. 13.	{ Miss Hattie O. Mason, Miss Louisa M. Hubbard,	Walpole.	Misses John L. Hubbard and J. L. Houghton,	Walpole.	Wm. Wellington.
No. 14.		Walpole.	Miss Juliette Chappell,	Walpole.	A. M. Wilder.

TABLE No. 1.
SUMMER AND FALL SCHOOLS.

DISTRICTS.	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	12	12	13	14
Length of school in weeks,.....	10	12	10	15	10	10	8	8	10	10	8	10	12	8	12	12	12	14
Wg's of fem'l teach'rs including board,.....	350	34	24	24	22	14	16	16	17	18	26	32	20	22	24	16	20	
No. of schol's 4 yr's old and upwards,.....	42	35	14	34	9	7	9	7	11	9	27	28	14	25	24	17	12	
Average daily attendance,.....	26 $\frac{2}{3}$	27	10	28	7 $\frac{3}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5	8 $\frac{7}{10}$	7 $\frac{9}{10}$	22	23	13	21 $\frac{7}{10}$	21 $\frac{9}{10}$	14 $\frac{2}{3}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	
No. of scholars between 4 and 16,.....	42	35	14	34	9	7	9	7	10	12	27	28	14	25	24	17	0	
No. over 16,.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	
No. of tardinesses,.....	251	51	15	8	11	0	10	10	0	4	19	42	7	25	5	0	4	
No. not absent one-half day,.....	0	1	1	10	1	5	6	0	2	2	2	1	9	1	5	8	4	
No. not tardy,.....	3	17	5	26	2	7	9	2	11	5	19	13	6	10	21	0	9	
No. not absent or tardy,.....	0	0	0	7	1	5	6	0	2	2	3	1	5	1	5	8	4	
No. of visits of Supt. committee,.....	2	2	4	2	4	2	4	3	4	4	7	2	4	4	4	4	2	
No. of visits of Prudential Com.,.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
No. " by citizens and others,.....	0	17	18	67	11	24	23	5	17	19	39	15	38	14	27	23	32	
Mo. of sch'l pre'ously taught by tch'r,.....	7	19	72	35	11	38	40	0	7	16	0	13	4	3	62	14	0	

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, NO. 1.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Miss ELLA R. BALL taught this school during the year, and the good reputatoin she earned by faithful effort during the past two years was fully sustained. The district have been very fortunate in securing the uniform services of Miss Ball so long a time. Mutual acquaintance between scholars and teacher, especially in the Primary school is an essential element of success. To teach successfully forty or fifty scholars whose ages range from four to ten years requires tact, ingenuity and patience, qualities in which Miss Ball excels. At the close of the winter term in appreciation of her faithful services for so long a time,—nearly three years,—her little pupils presented her with a handsome port-folio.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

The Spring Term of this school was kept by Mr. EDWARD RUSSELL, who had charge of it the term previous being the winter term of last year, and in the language of your committee, “under his instructions excellent progress was made and the school was successful.” Subsequently he taught the High School which offered a larger field for his genius and the display of his peculiar qualifications as a teacher, of which we shall say more hereafter.

During the fall and winter terms, Miss ELENORA M. LEARNED taught. Miss Learned ranks among our best teachers in town. During the time the school was under her instruction, she gave three public exhibitions, two of which were given in the Town Hall, and the exercises were very creditable to the general character of the school. The utility of so many exhibitions is questionable. A change of text books in arithmetic, substituting Greenleaf's Practical for “Adams's” was made during the third term; a very liberal arrangement was made with the publishers so that the exchange was accomplished without much additional expense.

HIGH SCHOOL.

It is an unpleasant task to write the history of an unsuccessful school. No matter whether the teacher or scholars, the parents or the committee, one or both or all, are at fault, the failure to accomplish the end of a good school is a calamity to the district. Perplexing questions arise. Was the deep sympathy and generous support of the parents extended to the teacher whom he so much needed to make his school successful? Was the direct influence of the parents ever opposed to the highest order of the school and the best welfare of the pupil? Were the scholars ever directly or indirectly encouraged in rebellion?

Such has been the condition of this school for the past few years, that the inhabitants, the tax-payers, are becoming more and more dissatisfied, and the question arises, what shall be done to improve the character of our High School? The answer is easy: we must have better teachers,—those of large experience, that will command the respect of the scholars and the moral support of the district. Such teachers cannot be secured without a fair remuneration for their services and your committee respectfully recommend that a larger sum of money be raised by the district,—sufficient to secure a first-class teacher for three terms in the year, by whom our school shall be elevated to a higher standard and be made equal to any in the State; in this way it will become in a short time, almost self-supporting, by offering inducements to pupils in other districts and other towns to avail themselves of its privileges.

There are too many scholars in the district to be crowded into two schools, and it becomes a serious question to decide what to do. Is it not suicidal economy to raise only money enough to secure a poor school? It has been remarked that “a good school is cheap at any reasonable cost, but a poor one is expensive, however cheap.”

As in former years there were only two terms of the school which commenced Aug. 20, 1868, and with a vacation of sixteen days in November and December closed, before finishing, Feb. 11, 1869, during which time it was under the instruction of Mr. EDWARD RUSSELL who had had six months previous experience in the Intermediate School, which he taught successfully. Mr. Russell labored industriously, perseveringly and to the best of his

ability to promote the highest welfare of his pupils. The thoroughness with which he taught was commendable in the highest degree; without it, no instruction is good for anything. It has been remarked by one of the best educators of youth in New-England that "even wrong methods of study thoroughly pursued are better than right ones pursued laxly, for this gives the student right habits and mental vigor;" he labors to make his scholars *think*—did not teach by rote—he *suggested* and taught them to *infer*—he drilled them in general principles that underlie all knowledge—stimulated them to acquire *ideas* and not merely store the mind with *words*; still, his youth with its inexperience, want of good judgment and lack of tact to secure the respect of his pupils, thwarted his best efforts, and he failed. We regret that he abandoned the school so summarily without consulting the committee.

We quote from an abstract of a report made last year by the superintending school committee of Exeter in this State; "Most of our teachers are not parents, and many of them are young and without experience in the common affairs of life, and have very limited ideas as to the course to be pursued in the training of children, or of parents' views in regard to the same. Parents have a higher interest in their children than any other person can have, and they agree as to certain habits and principles, which they wish their children to learn and be governed by. Intelligent men, with correct views of life, feel it to be their duty, not only to provide for their households, but also to make them happy and contented; they expect the instructors of our public schools to carry out their views and have order, contentment and happiness within schools. A man that is querulous, passionate, and overflowing with sarcasm at every small mistake or accident that his children may happen to make, or if he daily burdens them with tasks that they cannot perform, and humiliates them if they do not succeed, will not find the boon he seeks for. Neither will the teacher that possesses these traits of character, meet the wishes of those interested in our schools, and those more interested than he can be in his pupils, will not long endure the conflict between his, and their opinions."

GEO. A. BLAKE,	} Superintending
JOSIAH G. BELLWS,	
JOSHUA B. CLARK,	
	School Committee
	of District No. 1.

TABLE NO. III.

DISTRICT NO. I, 1868-9.

	Spring Term.			Fall Term.			Winter Term.		
	High School.			Intermediate.			Primary.		
	Intermediate.			Primary.			High School.		
	High School.			Intermediate.			Primary.		
	No Spring Term.			No Spring Term.			No Spring Term.		
Length of School in weeks.....	11	11	12	11	11	9 $\frac{7}{8}$	11	11	11
Wages of male teachers per month including board.....	\$40	32	33	36	35	21	36	33	32
Wages of female teachers per month including board.....	37	49	33	35	43	17 $\frac{17}{18}$	35	33	33
Number of scholars four years of age and upwards.....	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{23}{40}$	32 $\frac{1}{55}$	35 $\frac{1}{5}$	14	28 $\frac{3}{55}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average daily attendance.....	37	49	20	35	43	14	35	33	33
Number of scholars between four and sixteen years of age	37	49	13	35	43	14	35	33	33
Number of scholars over sixteen.....	0	0	3	0	0	7	0	0	0
Number of tardinesses.....	1	3	3	1	5	5	0	3	4
Number not absent one-half day.....	8	11	5	13	38	4	11	29	3
Number not tardy.....	36	46	31	34	38	16	35	29	3
Number not tardy or absent.....	8	11	5	13	38	4	11	29	3
Number of visits by Superintending School Committee....	6	2	6	3	4	2	2	2	2
Number of visits by Prudential Committee.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of visits by citizens.....	12	15	60	47	15	13	34	10	10
Months of school previously taught by teacher.....	7	15	8	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	11	18	28 $\frac{1}{4}$	21	21

